

May 9, 1975

SENATOR GOODRICH: Will Senator Schmit yield to a question? Senator Schmit, on the bottom of your Committee amendment, section 1 of your Committee amendment, you say in line 24, insert, et cetera, it shall be the duty of the Board to prepare and publish each month in at least one newspaper of general circulation within the District a detailed list of all expenditures of the District for the preceding month. What you are saying there is, they have got to list every check that they write in that previous month for any purpose whatsoever. Is that true?

SENATOR SCHMIT: That is right, Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: I think that you will find that some of these Districts write quite a few checks and this is going to be an expensive proposition for them to list this plus the fact that you are causing them to list every check, even if it is for a 10¢ postage stamp. I am suggesting, for example, that we should not be doing that. We should amend this amendment that you are proposing now to include a bottom dollar below which they should not have to publish a specific item. Do you have any particular thoughts on what that bottom dollar should be? We could lump the little ones in a miscellaneous or something.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Senator Goodrich, the Committee discussed it at great length and, naturally, there was some apprehension about the requiring of the listing of each individual check but it is not a new thing. The counties in our area are required to do it. They do it and they find it not to be particularly burdensome and they write a substantial number of checks, also. I am not opposed to your idea. I just think it might be more trouble, Senator Goodrich, to throw out the small checks than it would be just to list them all. I think that the principle point we wanted to make here was that the public seems to be considerably interested in the expenditure of tax dollars and I recognize that what you have discussed here is a valid consideration but I really don't feel that, if we were to amend the bill, I have no objection. I would rather do than to discuss it at too great length here today. I would rather move the bill and amend it on Select File because I think we can come to some kind of an agreement. I believe we are in general agreement. It is just a matter of whether or not we want to go down to the bottom line, for example, and I would have no objection in discussing it with you, Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: For the sake of getting it off General File, I won't offer any amendment but it will be there on Select File.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Fine, I would not object, I don't think but we could discuss it, at least.

SPEAKER: Senator Swigart.

SENATOR SWIGART: Mr. President, I want to ask Senator Schmit a question, please. When you say a newspaper of general circulation, now I wonder, in the city of Omaha, we have a Daily Record. It doesn't cost quite as much to put something in there but that is only accessible to the